CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of selling international travel tickets in combination with duty free items, comprising the steps of:

offering to sell to a customer at least one international travel ticket at a price below a then current price at which said international travel ticket can be purchased from a third party by the customer;

simultaneously offering to the customer at least one duty free item at no additional charge provided the customer purchases said at least one international travel ticket at the offering price;

acknowledging the customer's decision to purchase said at least one international travel ticket and the customer's entitlement to said at least one duty free item;

accepting payment from the customer for said at least one international travel ticket;

delivering said at least one international travel ticket to the customer; and

advising the customer of the method of delivery of said at least one duty free item to the customer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of offering to sell at least one international travel ticket comprises offering to sell one or more of a plurality of international travel tickets to a variety of destinations.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of offering at least one duty free item comprises offering to the customer one or more of a plurality of duty free items to the customer.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of offering to the customer one or more of a plurality of duty free items comprises offering duty free items having differing assigned values, and wherein the duty free items offered to the customer at no additional charge have a predetermined maximum assigned value which is dependent on the price of said at least one international travel ticket selected for purchase by the customer.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of said customer selecting at least one international travel ticket from among said plurality of international travel tickets and selecting at least one duty free item from among said plurality of duty free items.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of advising the customer of the method of delivery of said at least one duty free item comprises advising the customer that said duty free item will be delivered to the customer at one of an international port of departure, an international port of arrival and during international travel, whereby said at least one duty free item qualifies for duty free status.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of said customer selecting at least one international travel ticket further comprises the step of said customer viewing itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of international travel tickets by accessing a web site over a computer network.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said step of said customer selecting at least one duty free item further comprises the step of said customer viewing descriptive information concerning said plurality of duty free items by accessing a web site over a computer network.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of said customer making payment for said at least one international travel ticket by providing credit card information to a remote computer over a computer network.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of said customer providing

at least one of an address, phone number, email address and a passport number to a remote computer over a computer network.

11. A method of selling duty free items in combination with international travel tickets, comprising the steps of:

offering to sell to a customer at least one duty free item at a price below a then current price at which said at least one duty free item can be purchased from a third party by the customer;

simultaneously offering to the customer at least one international travel ticket at no additional charge provided the customer purchases said at least one duty free item at the offering price;

acknowledging the customer's decision to purchase said at least one duty free item and the customer's entitlement to said at least one international travel ticket;

accepting payment from the customer for said at least one duty free item;

advising the customer of the method of delivery of said at least one duty free item to the customer; and

delivering said at least one international travel ticket to the customer.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of offering to sell at least one duty free item comprises offering to sell one or more of a plurality of duty free items.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said step of offering at least one international travel ticket comprises offering to the customer one or more of a plurality of international travel tickets to a variety of destinations.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of offering to the customer one or more of a plurality of international travel tickets comprises offering international travel tickets having differing assigned values, and wherein the international travel tickets offered to the customer at no additional charge have a predetermined maximum assigned value which is dependent on the price of said at least one duty free item selected for purchase by the customer.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of said customer selecting at least one duty free item from among said plurality of duty free items and selecting at least one international travel ticket from among said plurality of international travel tickets.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of advising the customer of the method of delivery of said at least one duty free item comprises advising the customer that said at least one duty free item will be delivered to the customer at one of an international port of departure, an international port of arrival and during international travel, whereby said at least one duty free item qualifies for duty free status.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said step of said customer selecting at least one duty free item further comprises the step of said customer viewing descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items by accessing a web site over a computer network.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said step of said customer selecting at least one international travel ticket further comprises the step of said customer viewing itinerary information concerning said plurality of international travel tickets by accessing a web site over a computer network.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of said customer making payment for said at least one duty free item by providing credit card information to a remote computer over a computer network.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of said customer providing at least one of an address, phone number, email address and a passport number to a remote computer over a computer network.

21. A method of combining the sale of international travel tickets and duty free items to customers, comprising the steps of:

offering to sell to a customer at a first predetermined price one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

simultaneously offering to transfer to the customer the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item at one of no additional charge or a second predetermined price;

acknowledging the customer's decision to purchase said at least one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

acknowledging the customer's decision to acquire the other of said international travel ticket and a duty free item;

accepting payment from the customer for said at least one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item and for said other of said international travel ticket and a duty free item if said other of said international travel ticket and a duty free item is offered at said second predetermined price, said payment being less than a then current total price at which said customer could purchase said international travel ticket and said duty free item if said customer bought only said international travel ticket from one third party and bought only said duty free item from another third party;

delivering said international travel ticket to said customer; and

advising the customer of the method of delivery of said duty free item to said customer, whereby said customer acquires both said international travel ticket and said duty free item at a price less than the price which said customer would pay if said

customer bought only said international travel ticket from one third party and bought only said duty free item from another third party.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said step of offering to sell to a customer one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item comprises offering to sell to a customer one of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of offering to transfer to the customer the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item comprises offering to transfer to the customer one of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of offering to transfer to the customer the other one of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items at one of no additional charge or a second predetermined price comprises offering said other one of said international travel ticket and said duty free item at no additional charge if said first predetermined price of the one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer exceeds a predetermined amount and offering said other one of said international travel ticket and said duty free item at said second predetermined price if

said first predetermined price of the one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer is less than a predetermined amount.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of said customer selecting at least one international travel ticket from among said plurality of international travel tickets and selecting at least one duty free item from among said plurality of duty free items.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said step of offering to transfer to the customer the other of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items at a second predetermined price when the first predetermined price of the one of the international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer is less than a predetermined amount further comprises the step of selecting the second predetermined price based on the difference between the first predetermined price and the first predetermined amount.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said step of selecting the second predetermined price based on the difference between said first predetermined price and said first predetermined amount comprises increasing the second predetermined price as the amount by which said first predetermined amount exceeds said first predetermined price increases.

28. The method of claim 21, wherein said step of advising said customer of the method of delivery of said at least one duty free item comprises advising said customer that said at least one duty free item will be delivered to the customer at one of an international port of departure, an international port of arrival and during international travel, whereby said at least one duty free item qualifies for duty free status.

29. The method of claim 25, wherein said step of said customer selecting at least one international travel ticket further comprises the step of said customer viewing itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of international travel tickets by accessing a web site over a computer network.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said step of said customer selecting at least one duty free item further comprises the step of said customer viewing descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items by accessing a web site over a computer network.

31. The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of said customer making payment for said one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item by providing credit card information to a remote computer over a computer network.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of said customer providing at least one of an address, phone number, email address and a passport number over a computer network.

33. A method for using a computer to facilitate the combined the sale of international travel tickets and duty free items to customers, comprising the steps of:

outputting from the computer to the customer an offer to sell at a first predetermined price one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

outputting from the computer to the customer an offer to transfer to the customer the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item at one of no additional charge or a second predetermined price;

inputting to the computer from the customer an offer to purchase at said first predetermined price said at least one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

inputting to the computer from the customer an offer to acquire the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

outputting from the computer to the customer acceptance of the customer's offer to purchase said at least one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item and to acquire the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

inputting to the computer from the customer information concerning payment of said one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item and for said other of an

international travel ticket and a duty free item if said other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item is offered at said second predetermined price, said payment being less than a then current total price at which said customer could purchase said international travel ticket and said duty free item if said customer bought only said international travel ticket from one third party and bought only said duty free item from another third party;

delivering said international travel ticket to said customer; and

advising said customer of the method of delivery of said duty free item to said customer, whereby said customer acquires both said international travel ticket and said duty free item at a price less than the price which said customer would pay if said customer bought only said international travel ticket from one third party and bought only said duty free item from another third party.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said step of outputting from the computer to the customer an offer to sell to a customer one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item comprises offering to sell to a customer one of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of outputting from the computer to the customer an offer to transfer to the customer the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item comprises offering to transfer to the customer one of at least

one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of outputting from the computer to the customer an offer to transfer to the customer the other one of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items at one of no additional charge or a second predetermined price comprises offering said other one of said international travel ticket and said duty free item at no additional charge if said first predetermined price of the one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer exceeds a predetermined amount and offering said other one of said international travel ticket and said duty free item at said second predetermined price if said first predetermined price of the one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer is less than a predetermined amount.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said step of outputting from said computer to said customer an offer to transfer to the customer the other of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items at a second predetermined price when the first predetermined price of the one of the international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer is less than a predetermined amount further comprises the step of selecting the second

predetermined price based on the difference between the first predetermined price and the first predetermined amount.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein said step of selecting the second predetermined price based on the difference between said first predetermined price and said first predetermined amount comprises increasing said second predetermined price as the amount by which said first predetermined amount exceeds said first predetermined price increases.

39. The method of claim 34, wherein said step of outputting from said computer to said customer an offer to sell one of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items comprises outputting from said computer to the customer at least one of itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of international travel tickets and descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said step of outputting from said computer to said customer at least one of itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of international travel tickets and descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items comprises the step of outputting from said computer to said customer both itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of

international travel tickets and descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein said step of inputting to the computer from the customer information concerning payment further comprises the step of said customer inputting credit card information to the computer.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein said steps of said steps requiring said customer to input information to the computer comprises said customer inputting said information to said computer over a computer network.

43. A system for facilitating the combined sale of international travel tickets and duty free items to customers, comprising:

a storage device, said storage device storing a computer program and data concerning a plurality of international travel tickets and a plurality of duty free items;

a processor connected to the storage device and operative in response to the program to

output to a customer an offer to sell at a first predetermined price one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

output to the customer an offer to transfer the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item at one of no additional charge or a second predetermined price;

receive from the customer an offer to purchase at said first predetermined price said at least one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

receive from the customer an offer to acquire the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

output to the customer acceptance of the offer to purchase said at least one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item and to acquire the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

receive from the customer information concerning payment of said one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item and for said other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item if said other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item is offered at said second predetermined price, said payment being less than a then current total price at which said customer could purchase said international travel ticket and said duty free item if said customer bought only said international travel ticket from one third party and bought only said duty free item from another third party.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to output to a customer an offer to sell one of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to output to a customer an offer to transfer to the customer the other of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items.

46. The system of claim 45, wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to output to a customer an offer to transfer to said customer said other one of said international travel ticket and said duty free item at no additional charge if said first predetermined price of the one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer exceeds a predetermined amount and offering said other one of said international travel ticket and said duty free item at said second predetermined price if said first predetermined price of the one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer is less than a predetermined amount.

47. The system of claim 46, wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to output to a customer an offer to transfer the other of at least one of a

plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items at a second predetermined price when the first predetermined price of the one of the international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer is less than a predetermined amount and wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to select the second predetermined price based on the difference between the first predetermined price and the first predetermined amount.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to select the second predetermined price by increasing the second predetermined price as the amount by which said first predetermined amount exceeds said first predetermined price increases.

49. The system of claim 44, wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to output to a customer at least one of itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of international travel tickets and descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to output to a customer both itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of international travel tickets and descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to receive from a customer information concerning a credit card.

52. The system of claim 43, wherein processor communicates with said customer over a computer network.

53. The system of claim 51, wherein processor communicates with said customer over a computer network.

54. A system for facilitating the combined sale of international travel tickets and duty free items to customers, comprising:

a first computer operated by a consumer and operatively connected to a first device for transmitting data over a computer network;

a second computer operated by a seller and operatively connected to a second device for transmitting data over a computer network, said second computer including a storage device storing a computer program and data concerning a plurality of international travel tickets and a plurality of duty free items, and a processor operatively connected to the storage device and operative in response to the program to

transmit to the first computer over a computer network an offer to sell at a first predetermined price one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

transmit to the first computer over a computer network an offer to transfer the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item at one of no additional charge or a second predetermined price;

receive from the first computer over a computer network an offer to purchase at said first predetermined price said at least one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

receive from the first computer over a computer network an offer to acquire the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

transmit to the first computer over a computer network acceptance of the offer to purchase said at least one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item and to acquire the other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item;

receive from the first computer over a computer network information concerning payment of said one of an international travel ticket and a duty free item and for said other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item if said other of an international travel ticket and a duty free item is offered at said second predetermined price, said payment being less than a then current total price at which said customer could

purchase said international travel ticket and said duty free item if said customer bought only said international travel ticket from one third party and bought only said duty free item from another third party.

55. The system of claim 54, wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program to transmit to a customer over a computer network an offer to sell one of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items.

56. The system of claim 55, wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program to transmit to a customer over a computer network an offer to transfer to the customer the other of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items.

57. The system of claim 56, wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program to transmit to a customer over a computer network an offer to transfer to said customer said other one of said international travel ticket and said duty free item at no additional charge if said first predetermined price of the one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer exceeds a predetermined amount and offering said other one of said international travel ticket and said duty free item at said second predetermined price if

said first predetermined price of the one of said international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer is less than a predetermined amount.

58. The system of claim 57, wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program to transmit to a customer over a computer network an offer to transfer the other of at least one of a plurality of international travel tickets and at least one of a plurality of duty free items at a second predetermined price when the first predetermined price of the one of the international travel ticket and a duty free item selected for purchase by the customer is less than a predetermined amount and wherein said processor is operative in response to said program to select the second predetermined price based on the difference between the first predetermined price and the first predetermined amount.

59. The system of claim 58, wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program to select the second predetermined price by increasing the second predetermined price as the amount by which said first predetermined amount exceeds said first predetermined price increases.

60. The system of claim 55, wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program to transmit to a customer over a computer network at least one of itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of

international travel tickets and descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items.

61. The system of claim 60, wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program to transmit to a customer over a computer network both itinerary and pricing information concerning said plurality of international travel tickets and descriptive and pricing information concerning said plurality of duty free items.

62. The system of claim 61, wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program to receive from said first computer over a computer network information concerning a credit card.

63. The system of claim 62, further comprising a third computer operatively connected to a third device for transmitting data over a computer network, said third computer having access to stored information concerning a plurality of credit card accounts and to a program for processing credit card payments for said plurality of credit card accounts, and wherein said processor in said second computer is operative in response to said program in said second computer to transmit to said third computer over a computer network information concerning a credit card received from said first computer, to receive from said third computer over a computer network acceptance of a

credit card transaction, and to transmit to said first computer over a computer network acknowledgement of a completed credit card transaction.

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